

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a method or apparatus utilized for assigning designations to endpoints for use in a peer-to-peer collaboration system to independently assign a unique designation to an endpoint of the member invited to join the telespace, each designation of an endpoint of the invited member comprising a unique endpoint designation indicative of the respective inviting member; and ordering received data change messages based on endpoint designations in the received data change messages, in the specific manner and combinations recited in claims 1, 18, and 38, and including the features of "operating each of at least two of the plurality of computers in the peer-to-peer collaboration system to perform acts comprising:

inviting an invited member to join the telespace; independently assigning a unique designation to an endpoint of the member invited to join the telespace, each designation of an endpoint of the invited member comprising:

(a) a value indicative of the order in which the invited member was invited by a respective inviting member to join the telespace; and

(b) an inviting member endpoint designation indicative of the respective inviting member".

Dependent claims 2-13, 15-16, 19-24, 26-28, 30, 32-34, and 39-40 incorporate the novel and non-obvious features disclosed above, and therefore also allowed.

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The closest related prior art are cited to state the general state of the art and are not considered to teach the distinguishing features noted above. The prior art includes:

- (i) US Patent Badovintz et al (US 6,104,871), which teaches maintaining membership of process groups of a distributed computing environment;
- (ii) US Patent Zhang et al (US 6,016,478), which discloses a peer to peer scheduling system;
- (iii) US Patent Ahuja et al (US 6,751,669), which teaches sending add member invites in a peer to peer negotiation session;
- (iv) NPL document "How to Disappear Completely: A Survey of Private Peer-to-Peer Networks" – Michael Rogers and Saleem Bhatti-Walker, University College London, 1998, which discloses an overview of using Gnutella peer to peer software; and
- (v) NPL document "Peer To Peer Information Systems" Gerhard Weikum http://www.mpi-inf.mpg.de/departments/d5/teaching/ws03_04/p2p-data/10-21-intro.pdf, which provides an overview of peer file sharing systems.

After thorough review of related prior art, the application has been deemed allowable because of the limitation of "inviting an invited member to join the telespace; independently assigning a unique designation to an endpoint of the member invited to join the telespace, each designation of an endpoint of the invited member comprising:

- (a) a value indicative of the order in which the invited member was invited by a respective inviting member to join the telespace; and
 - (b) a unique endpoint designation indicative of the respective inviting member;
- and ordering received data change messages based on endpoint designations in the

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received data change messages” recited in the specific manner and combinations recited within the claims. Upon an extensive search and review, none of the cited prior art taught the specified limitation or provided language for creating designated endpoints for each member invited to join a telepace.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Randy A. Scott whose telephone number is (571) 272-3797. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30 am-5:00 pm, second Fridays 7:30 am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Krista Zele can be reached on (571) 272-7288. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/RANDY SCOTT/

Examiner, Art Unit 2453

20110519

/Krista M. Zele/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2453